



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

A TEXTBOOK OF PHARMACOLOGY—Principles and Application of Pharmacology to the Practice of Medicine—William T. Salter, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 1240 pages, 284 figures, \$15.00.

Unfortunately Dr. Salter died just after his monumental work appeared, and so criticism loses its most worthwhile aspect, that of suggesting improvements to the author. Dr. Salter's earlier training as a clinician led him into this attempt to correlate pharmacology and therapeutics in a way not ordinarily presented in textbooks of pharmacology. This was an ambitious goal, and must be commended, even though somewhat imperfect in its fruition.

The book has been divided into four large parts. Each of the parts has been subdivided into sections which are then broken down into chapters on related subjects. Part One is primarily a 33-page introduction to the study of pharmacology; Part Four is a short 12-page section on clinical toxicology. The remaining 1150 pages are taken up by Part Two: *Drug Actions on Physiological Mechanisms*; and by Part Three: *The Application of Drugs in Clinical Medicine*. Thus it is apparent that the major emphasis of this book is placed on the use of drugs in the treatment of pathological states, and that pharmacology is discussed as it relates to these particular situations. As a result, a loose continuity of subjects is achieved. Many drugs are discussed briefly at many points as they relate to the particular diseases, but no comprehensive description is given in any one chapter. Therefore, if one desires complete information on any major drug, he must rely on the index, and pick this up piecemeal.

This means of presentation will make the book somewhat difficult to use as a text for sophomore students who have most of their knowledge in medicine and pathology yet to come. For the clinician, however, the book may prove to be considerably more useful. There is some deficit of exact therapeutic procedures, such as doses and time intervals, which the clinician always finds useful. The section on endocrine glands as they relate to pharmacology is particularly comprehensive and well written.

Thus, like most books, this new pharmacology has both strong and weak points, but it is a welcome addition to the pharmacological repertory. In particular, the poetical embellishments and aphorisms are pleasing to the eye and ear.

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POISONING—A Guide to Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment—W. F. von Oettingen, M.D., Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency, Bethesda, Maryland. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York, 1952. 524 pages, \$10.00.

Dr. von Oettingen probably represents modern toxicology more than anyone else in America and we are indeed fortunate that he has reviewed the field with such detail and skill. His book is quite unique among toxicology texts in containing more than the usual listing of poisonings with their signs, symptoms and treatments. This traditional sec-

tion, to be sure, is the largest in the book, but is preceded by a long portion devoted to diagnosis and differential diagnosis. It is this extensive diagnostic part which represents new ground in a text. Each bodily system is considered separately by symptom, for instance, hyperthermia and perspiration are considered differentially under the general systemic heading of changes notable on inspection, and euphoria and twitchings of the muscles under the nervous system. Of particular value are the descriptions of relevant laboratory tests, and their biochemical interpretations.

With the continuous introduction of new synthetics, the field of toxicology cannot help but grow, and it is to be hoped that the book may be revised accordingly. One addition which the reviewer would have found helpful would have been a greater incorporation of popular names, either as a separate list, or by inclusion in the index, with reference to the proper section which would then include the synonyms. Thus, mushrooms were hard to find, although *Amanita* were there if one remembered this name, and while one looked in vain for trembles, or milk sickness, *Apolopap-pus* was the key word.

Two other minor points bear thought. First, although the section on differential diagnosis is an excellent concordance of knowledge, in most cases of poisoning the suspect agent is obvious and the differential relatively unimportant. The second point concerns the details of treatment. These are quite abbreviated and might be usefully expanded in the future.

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MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES—In Medical and Surgical Conditions—9th Edition—Noel M. Tidy, Member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy; T.M.M.G., The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 519 pages, \$6.00.

This book is intended for British students of physical therapy. Almost every possible orthopedic and neurological condition plus many medical and gynecologic conditions are listed with briefs of the pathology and symptomatology followed by treatment with emphasis on physical treatment, if any. This physical treatment emphasizes specific types of massage and specific remedial exercises for each entity.

In the United States, the efficacy of massage as a major treatment for pathological conditions is much doubted and is used much less frequently than in Europe. Instead emphasis has been placed more on heat and in recent years even more on exercises. Heat is not discussed in this book; the exercises given are mainly of the calisthenic type with very little mention of strength-building or resistance type. There are too few illustrations, and the descriptions of exercises too glib for easy understanding and practical application. The book does point up the fact that physical treatment is applicable to almost all neurological and orthopedic conditions, and can produce much improvement if used intelligently, and prescribed accurately.

This book is not to be recommended to physicians and is of limited value to physical therapists.